

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3062

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PEPR, KS, KN, US

SUBJ: CINCUNC ACCEPTED NK COUNTER-PROPOSAL FOR APRIL 17 MAC
SECRETARIES MEETING

REF: A) SEOUL 2842 (DTG 080300Z APR 78), B) SEOUL 2848
(DTG 100322Z APR 78)

1. ON APRIL 13 UNC INFORMED NORTH KOREANS THROUGH JOINT
DUTY OFFICER (JDO) OF ACCEPTANCE OF NK COUNTER-PROPOSAL FOR
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION (MAC) SECRETARIES MEETING
APRIL 17 AT 1100. ALTHOUGH MEETING WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY
TO KEEP MAC MACHINERY OPERATING, POTENTIALLY MORE USEFUL
PURPOSE MAY BE SERVED BY THIS MEETING, INsofar AS IT MAY
REPRESENT FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD HANDLING ROUTINE, MINOR
CHANGES OF ARMISTICE VIOLATIONS IN A LOW-KEY FASHION.

2. NK INITIAL PASSAGE OF VIOLATION CHARGES THROUGH JDO (REF A)
REPRESENTS A STEP IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. PREVIOUSLY
THEY PASSED CHARGES AT MAC OR SECRETARIES' MEETINGS, WHICH
IN OUR VIEW GAVE EXAGGERATED IMPORTANCE TO WHAT WERE FOR
THE MOST PART VERY MINOR CHARGES AND ENHANCED PROPAGANDA ASPECT
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OF SECRETARIES' MEETINGS. AFTER REPEATED UNC
REQUESTS TO PASS VIOLATION CHARGES THROUGH JDO'S ON A
TIMELY BASIS, NK FINALLY, FOLLOWING MAC MEETINGS IN MAY
'77 AND 1 JULY '77, PASSED LISTS OF CHARGES THROUGH JDO
AFTER MAKING VIOLATION ACCUSATIONS AT MAC MEETINGS THEM-
SELVES.

3. PASSAGE OF VIOLATIONS LIST THROUGH JDO WITHOUT FIRST CALLING MAC OR SECRETARIES MEETING THUS APPEARS TO REPRESENT SOME MOVEMENT ON PART OF NORTH KOREANS TOWARD A MORE BUSINESS-LIKE WAY OF HANDLING THESE CHARGES. WHAT IS LACKING STILL IS TIMELINESS.

4. UNC WILL REITERATE NOV 76 SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO NK SIDE THAT CHARGES BE PASSED ON A MORE FREQUENT, MORE TIMELY BASIS, WHICH WILL PERMIT MORE MEANINGFUL INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION. IF NORTH KOREANS RESPOND POSITIVELY, UNC MAC SECRETARY WILL AGAIN INDICATE AS IN 1976 THAT HE IS PREPARED TO JOIN NK SECRETARY IN RECOMMENDING TO THE MAC THAT MINOR CHARGES THUS SUBMITTED BE DISCUSSED AT THE MAC SECRETARIES LEVEL -- AN OBJECTIVE THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE SOUGHT IN THE PAST.

6. NET RESULT OF THESE MUTUAL CONCESSIONS WOULD BE MORE BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE WITH CHARGES DELIVERED PROMPTLY THROUGH JDO, INVESTIGATED WHILE THEY ARE STILL NEW AND WHILE IT IS CONCEIVABLY STILL POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE FACTS, AND DISCUSSED BY BOTH SIDES ONLY AFTER THERE HAS BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK INTO THEM, AT LEAST PRELIMINARILY. JDO WOULD THUS BE PERFORMING ITS PROPER FUNCTION AS COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL, UNC WOULD HAVE PTEWXELY NOTICE OF OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AND WE WOULD AGREE

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IN RETURN TO RECOMMEND DISPOSING OF MINOR CHARGES AT SECRETARIES LEVEL, WITH LEVEL OF DISPOSITION OF MORE IMPORTANT CHARGES NOT SPECIFIED.

6. MEETING ON APRIL 17 MAY THUS HAVE A PARACTICAL UTILITY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE SYMBOLIC UTILITY OF KEEPING MAC MACHINERY OPERATING.

7. UNC WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON RESULTS OF MEETING.
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